



**Advocacy Group for the Environmentally Sensitive**

Burlington  
Dundas  
Hamilton  
Oakville  
Waterdown

1102-258 Lisgar St.,  
Ottawa. R2P 0C9

<1,1>,  
Legislative Member,  
Queens Park,  
Toronto.

11 March 1986

AGES CHARGE SUPPORTED BY JUDGE'S REPORT - Doctors bicker while patients die

Dear <1,1>,

Please find enclosed a copy of a news release, and a letter to Mr. Murray Elston asking for a provincial inquiry into the OMA.

Two people with environmental hypersensitivities have committed suicide, both of them having had crushing depression caused by the condition, and both of them further depressed and discouraged by the bigotry doctors have caused by speaking from a position of ignorance about our disease.

Doctors in the OMA have said the illness is psychosomatic, when in fact both clinical experience and research shows it results from systemic reactions to environmental factors, including the buildup of pollution in our bodies.

Please read of the woman who committed suicide in a Toronto area riding who's case is briefly described in the news release.

Imagine something like that happening to one of your constituents while the organization of doctors in the province is unable to come to terms with the issue because of parochial specialist politics.

We have documented the suicides. Evidence of bigotry on this issue amongst Ontario doctors is widely available from various news sources. Doctors treating us have repeatedly complained about it to the OMA. The OMA has only further perpetrated the discrimination.

We feel any responsible adult human being would find the level of argument dismaying.

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What would you tell the family of someone you represent who has killed themselves because they can't get proper treatment because members of the association of doctors in the province are bickering over academic details, over who gets paid for what, and doing so from the ludicrous positions as described in Judge Thompson's report, such as:

"all medical treatments are based upon sound scientific research"

"the environment plays little role in the generation of disease"

"all the identified patients are emotionally ill"

We strongly agree with the belief expressed on page 266 of Judge Thompson's Report:

'...that confidence in the health care system is eroded when productive dialogue between different groups is replaced by acrimonious debate before a confused public. Protagonists take up positions that are clearly untenable.'

We are asking that Mr. Elston commission a review of the operation of the doctor's association, to find out how our health concerns could have been buried under that organization's internal politics, so it might not happen to others with similar concerns in the future.

We are also asking for a clear statement from the OMA to the effect that they have heard and understand our concerns. Given the damage caused by members of the association, we also feel a public apology is in order, to forcefully demonstrate through the media that in fact our concerns have been legitimate all along.

Attached is an excerpt from Judge Thompson's report that comments on the professional debate. As he points out, we haven't yet taken our case to the courts and the Human Rights Commission in Canada, but similar actions are now taking place in the United States. Please read his comments on the doctor's infighting, and reflect on the fact that in the meantime, people have died. We're not complaining so much about doctor's ignorance, as their attitude on this issue, and the effect of that attitude on those of us who are sick.

We feel the minister has a responsibility to address our concerns, and to end bigotry when it has resulted in death. I implore you to help end the discrimination we endure as a result of the collapse of any apparent ability on the part of the OMA to respond to our health concerns.

Thank you for your valuable time,

Sincerely,

Chris Brown  
ACES (Ottawa Chapter) (613) 237 0923